

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 636
By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Steve Smith for his
induction into the Junior Achievement Business
Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Steve Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer of K-VA-T Food Store, Incorporated, which owns the well-known Food City and Piggly Wiggly food stores; he was recently honored as an inductee into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, an astute businessman, Mr. Smith began cultivating his keen business skills and strong work ethic after college when his father asked him to come home and join the family business, started fifty years ago with one 8,000 square feet store in Grundy and now encompasses ninety Food City store in three states; and

WHEREAS, originally having no intention of contributing to the family business, Mr. Smith's first grocery retail business failed entirely; after a time of experimentation, Steve Smith was off to a humble beginning and, if not for his mentor, Claude Varney, who taught Steve a love for the grocery business and a love for the people business, Mr. Smith might not have become the success he is now; and

WHEREAS, the family grocery business, then having eleven Piggly Wiggly stores, began to expand in 1984 with the purchase of Food City; this merging of these two companies allowed for more buying power and more influence with manufacturers to accomplish the ultimate goal of bringing lower priced groceries to consumers; and

WHEREAS, Steve Smith has guided K-VA-T's growth with expertise by acquiring White Stores out of Knoxville, Tennessee, as well as Winn-Dixie stores; and

WHEREAS, during its growth and development, the focus of K-VA-T has always been that of giving back to the community through numerous noteworthy organizations, including Sequoyah Council of Boy Scouts of America, Muscular Dystrophy, United Way, Big Brother/Big Sisters, American Cancer Society, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Santa Pals, Bristol YWCA, Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Bristol and Knoxville, and American Diabetes Association; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable professional still finds time to lend his time and talents to the Bristol Chamber of Commerce and the Wellmont Health System. He serves with distinction as Chairman of Topco, a grocer cooperative, and as Vice-Chairman for Public Affairs for the Food Marketing Institute, and stood as Chairman of the National Grocers Association from 2000-2002; and

WHEREAS, an avid supporter of Junior Achievement, Mr. Smith appreciates what a motivational and powerful tool the relationships between adults and kids can be and believes that Junior Achievement and his grocery stores motivate and lead people through the act of mentoring; and

WHEREAS, Steve Smith epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Steve Smith is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Debbie Reece Smith, and their two daughters, Katie and Chloe; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Steve Smith for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Steve Smith upon his induction into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame, thank him for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.